

LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

POEMS, by George Alfred Townsend. Published by Rhodes & Ralph, Washington, D. C. Mr. Townsend is well known as one of the most vigorous and animated, if not one of the most profound, among the newspaper writers of our day. He has fine descriptive powers, and his letters to half the journals in the country, dated from nearly every quarter of the globe, are, in spite of their eccentricities, full of information and excellent entertainment. As a poet Mr. Townsend is less known than as a correspondent, and the manner in which his verses have floated around in the corners of the papers has not conducted to establishing his fame in this line of art. In the volume before us, all, or all that Mr. Townsend considers worth preserving, of these fugitive poems have been collected, and the average of merit is very much higher than we had reason to expect. The ordinary duties of a newspaper writer are not such as are conducive to poetical inspiration, and it indicates no ordinary power in Mr. Townsend that he has been able to produce verses of as high a grade as the majority of those in this volume are. Some of the poems do not rise above a graceful commonplace, but many of them have undoubted merit, as the following:—

He wore his Sunday bob-tail coat, when twice a year, for this, The Judge came up to hold the Court (upon the bench his brogue). And in his shirt-sleeves told the law, and spit a slimy peck. The while he said: "Be taken hence and hanged by the neck."

—From A. Brentano, No. 708 Broadway, New York, we have received "The Era Almanac" for 1870, which contains a variety of valuable statistics about musical and theatrical matters. —Turner Brothers send us Appleton's Journal for January 22.

INSURANCE. 1829.—CHARTER PERPETUAL. Franklin Fire Insurance Company OF PHILADELPHIA. Office, Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT ST. Assets Jan. 1, '69, \$2,677,372 1/3. Losses paid since 1829, over \$5,500,000.

PROPOSALS FOR STAMPED ENVELOPES AND WRAPPERS. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. January 10, 1870. Sealed Proposals will be received until 3 P. M. on the 1st day of MARCH, 1870, for furnishing all the "Stamped Envelopes" and "Newspaper Wrappers" which this Department may require during a period of four years, commencing 1st July, 1870, viz.:

SHIPPING. LORILLARD'S STEAMSHIP LINE FOR NEW YORK. SAILING ON TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS, AND SATURDAYS, AT NOON. On and after December 15, the rates will be 25 cents per 100 lbs. for 1st class, 15 cents per 100 lbs. for 2nd class, 10 cents per 100 lbs. for 3rd class.

Mr. Townsend's muse is a roamer like himself, and the mood of these poems is as varied as their subject. Many of them show not only keen observation and fine appreciation of nature, art, and human character, but are of a finer fibre and a more elevated tone of thought than would be expected from Mr. Townsend's prose style.

General Collamore, Mayor of the city, went into his cell to save his life, together with another citizen. The house was burned down, and they were smothered to death. A friend went down into the well to see if the General was alive. The rope broke, and he, too, was hauled up a lifeless corpse, making three dead bodies from one well.

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THE PENNSYLVANIA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. INCORPORATED 1829.—CHARTER PERPETUAL. CAPITAL, \$2,000,000. FIRE INSURANCE EXCLUSIVELY.

PROPOSALS FOR PURCHASE OF RIFLED CANNON, ETC. BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT. WASHINGTON CITY, January 4, 1870.

ROOFING. THE ROOFING IS ADAPTED TO ALL BUILDINGS. IT CAN BE APPLIED TO STEEP OR FLAT ROOFS.